

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives House Republican Leadership

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House Republican Leadership: School Safety Resources A Priority in Budget Negotiations

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Members of the House Republican leadership team today said that they believe that school safety resources will be included in the budget.

"Beginning with our earliest draft budget, House Republicans have been working to include school safety resources to improve the security of our schools and protect our students," said Representative Gina Cobb (R-5), chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

"The Legislature has passed some good legislation this session that improves school safety, like the bill to create threat reporting guidelines at schools and the suicide prevention bill, and we have more to do," said House Majority Leader Warren Petersen (R-12). "While budget negotiations are ongoing and details have yet to be finalized, I'm confident the budget will include meaningful school safety policy and resources."

"The state has a responsibility to ensure that our schools are safe places where children can focus on learning," said House Majority Whip Becky Nutt (R-14). Representative Nutt authored an <u>op-ed in the Arizona Republic</u> last week on the need for school vulnerability assessments.

"As a school board member, I know how critical these issues are, and I'm proud that House Republicans, along with our colleagues in the Senate and Governor Ducey, have made school safety resources a priority in the budget," said Speaker Pro Tempore T.J. Shope (R-8).

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